

Response to Office Action dated May 12, 2006  
US Patent Application No. 09/884,706

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 23-25 stand rejected, and claims 2-4, 6-14, 17, 20-22 and 26-29 stand objected to.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 1, 5, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 23-25 without prejudice.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 3, 12, 26 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 12, 26 and 29 accordingly.

In addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 6-11, 13, 14, 17, 20-22, 27 and 28 are allowable because they depend from claims 2, 3, 12, 26 and 29, respectively. Because claim 5 has been cancelled, Applicants have amended claim 6 to include all of the limitations of claim 5, from which claim 6 depends.

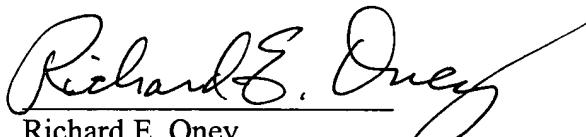
Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that claims 2-4, 6-14, 17, 20-22 and 26-29 be allowed.

#### Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: November 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.10**

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I hereby certify that this paper and all documents and any fee referred to herein are being deposited on the date indicated above with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, postage prepaid and addressed to the Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Richard E. Oney  
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Nov. 13, 2006  
Date of Signature